

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 11:00am, pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations :(Las Vegas). State Building LV 555 E. Washington Suite 4900 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 and Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999 Las Vegas: 702-486-5260
Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chair Commissioner Siefert called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
- B. Present: C. Siefert (present); C. Lee (phone); C. Chadha (phone); C. Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (present) C Yolanda Flores MD. (Phone from United Kingdom), C. Kari Emm (present). C. Semilla Neal (present) Also Director of B&I Bruce Breslow (present) and Miriam Lira-Hickerson, Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities-Department of B&I. (present).
- B.1. Public Attendance: Senator Aaron Ford; Janelle Mack.
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. Cole.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Business and Industry Director Bruce Breslow provided recommendations for strengthening the work of the Commission. Points of discussion were to move towards building a consensus of the work at hand, creating an agenda, and/or making requests. To solidify the work of the Commission, having a staffer would allow one person to conduct research on the goals of the Commission to drive the agenda forward. D. Breslow stated that he had requested for additional funding in the budget but was denied. Additionally, enhancements are not allowed to the Business and Industry budget. The suggestion of creating an internship was proposed. Commissioner Siefert asked if the Commission can request a staffer but the answer was no due to the request having to go through the Department of Business and Industry. D. Breslow suggested that the Commissioner ask a legislator to assist with asking for additional funding. Commissioner Siefert asked if the Commission can propose bill drafts. The answer per D. Breslow was no. Senator Aaron Ford stated that as a legislator he will make room in the budget for the Commissioner but in the meantime, he will ask for the assistance of the Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson to share the minutes to be able to create a comprehensive request. D. Breslow confirmed that the Ombudsman job is to see what is happening with the minority community (working heavily with the Chambers of Commerce that serve the minority community) but there are more individuals in the Southern Nevada office consisting of the Deputy and staff that can also be of assistance. D. Breslow stated that he provides a quarterly report to the Governor's office and the Commission's agenda will be provided in a subsection of the Ombudsman's office report. Janelle had no public comment and stated that she was just there to learn. Chair Seifert thanked everyone for their comments.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Approval of May 16, 2016, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action). Corrections noted and made. Moved by Commissioner Rhodes-Ford, seconded by Commissioner Flores. Motion carried.

B. Sub-Committee Activities Report (for review and discussion, no action necessary). The Commission discussed that every activity involved will have to do with issues impacting minorities. The Commissioners stated that they are going to share information through subcommittees. A discussion was had regarding connecting with the major minority chambers of commerce: Latin Chamber, Urban Chamber, and Asian Chamber so far. Commissioner Rhodes-Ford will reach out and receive information for a listing of CPAs to be provided to the IRS per the request of the past meetings.

C. Commission's 2016-2018 Biennium Strategic Plans: Review overall plan and discuss actionable item for each sub-committee. Commissioner Lee is to lead the review and discussion (for discussion and possible action). The Commission discussed and agreed that all Subcommittees should choose two items that relate to their theme and create an action plan to implement to the strategic plan. These action plans will be discussed at the next meeting in July 2016.

D. Legislative Platform: Identify and create an action plan. Commissioner Rhodes-Ford is to lead the discussion (for discussion and possible action). Commissioner Rhodes-Ford opened up the floor for the Legislative Platform. There were no suggestions from the Commission and she asked guest Senator Ford if there were any bills that related to the agenda of the Commission that they could support. Senator Ford stated bills that were proposed from the past legislative for Education such as the Clark County School District breakdown and the Northern Nevada restructuring of school financing as well as his own bill for Economic Development. This bill consisted of line items for minority owned businesses access to loans. He mentioned that Interim committees take place and that the Commission should look at the legislative calendar to see which subcommittees align with the Commission's strategic plan. Senator Ford then suggested support from the Commission to testify for the next legislative session for his bill. He also stated that he will personally reserve a BDR for this Commission. Ombudsman asked for the bill number but he did not have the information. He stated he will email it to the Ombudsman for the record. Commissioner Rhodes-Ford suggested making an action plan to support a couple of bills based on the comments made by Senator Ford.

E. 2016 – 2018 Vacant Positions (northern, Southern and Rural): Calling for nomination (for matter of records, no action necessary). Commissioner Chadha and Commissioner Lee will promote the vacancies and send the potential candidates' information to the Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson per protocol. Commissioner Seifert, as a last term Chair, nominated a Northern Nevada candidate Janelle Mack. The interest letter was provided to the Ombudsman for review but additional proper interview needs to be conducted.

F. Discuss planning events 2016/2017 organizing the resources for the topic of Childhood Overweight and Obesity first on fall/winter season. Commissioner Flores MD is to lead the discussion (for discussion and possible action). Commissioner Flores is going to be in contact with Commissioner Neal for future action plans based on the strategic plan. An event for Fall/Winter 2016 (date TBD) will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.

G. New Business/Comments or Items of Discussion

New Chair Commissioner Jane Lee opened the floor to thank Chair Siefert for her service in the Commission. Ombudsman in the name of the Department of Business and Industry also extended her gratitude for the leadership and service to advocate for the NCMA. The Commissioners quorum agreed to recognize her efforts.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Ford and Janelle Mack thanked the Commission for an informative meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Action to adjourn meeting at 12:37 pm. Moved by Commissioner Rhodes-Ford, seconded by C. Chadha and C. Flores. Motion carried.